

NEWSLETTER

FOR

THE MORVILLE GROUP OF PARISHES

VILLAGE HALL



ASTON EYRE



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PARISH COUNCIL



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WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

FEBRUARY 2024

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The lovely people who choose to remain contributors, helpers and distributors are very much appreciated; you are all important links in the chain of volunteers.

From “A Village Childhood, Monk Hopton” by Mr Robert Corfield

On February 21st 1921 I went to work in the gardens at Monk Hopton House. My boss was Arthur Blackwell, the Head Gardener-he only told you to do a job once, but never the less he was a very good man at his job. At that time unemployment had reached a peak and there were about three hundred unemployed in Bridgnorth.

Men would walk out to Monk Hopton asking for work but of course there was none.

I can remember, however, that no man was turned away without Lord Wenlock seeing him personally and seeing that he had a meal and some money to return home with. In fact there is still one such man in Bridgnorth who I often meet who tells me how grateful he was that Lord Wenlock found him work for a month. People say today – why didn't you get different job - Believe me there was nothing.

Mr.Blackwell left Monkhopton House and was replaced as Head Gardener by Arthur Haywood from Sussex. He too was a very competent gardener. He was also very kind and helped everyone he could.

(**Thank you** to Mrs Doreen England for sending the newsletter a copy of her Father's memories. More extracts will appear in subsequent newsletters.)

Morville Parish Council

At our meeting on January 8th, we voted to co-opt Paul Davis-White, as a new Councillor to represent Monkhopton, to replace David Gibson who has moved away from the Parish.

Paul lives at Beacon Hill, where he runs an Air B'n'B – he is also a director of the Severn Valley Railway. We are looking forward to working with him.

At the same meeting, we voted to set the Council's Budget for the coming year, and to submit a Precept request to Shropshire Council - we have managed to keep this at the same level as last year.

We welcomed Chris Rowe to the meeting – he has agreed to undertake any necessary Environmental Maintenance jobs in the Parish, as and when they arise. He has already tidied up the area around the bus shelter in Morville (which belongs to the Parish Council), and around the Morville phone box which houses the defibrillator. He has also cleared vegetation that was obscuring road signs on the Corvedale road. He is working with the local Parish Councillors to identify blocked drains and gullies, to try to alleviate some of the problems we have had with flooding.

Several houses were badly flooded during recent heavy rain, and roads were blocked – we are starting to map the places where this regularly occurs so that we can attempt to deal with it efficiently. If parishioners are aware of any particular vulnerable spots, please contact Cllr. Pam Yuille at pamela.yuille@doctors.org or 07793 939291 – she is co-ordinating this work.

We are grateful to the volunteers who are regularly picking up litter throughout the Parish.

Potholes in the roads are still a big problem, especially due to the bad weather. These are best reported to Shropshire Council online, through the 'FixMyStreet' website, at www.fixmystreet.com

Morville Churchyard Working Party

Many thanks to everyone who joined in the churchyard working party on Saturday 25th November. It was a successful morning with lots completed. Our next working party is scheduled for Saturday 13th April.

Morville School News

Firstly, let me start by wishing you all a very happy new year.

Although it has been a cold and frosty start to the Spring term 2024 it has not stopped the staff and children in their enthusiasm for learning with their new class topics.

In Oak Tree Class the children are currently exploring the topic of ‘Toy Story’ where the children will be exploring toys through the ages. The children have begun their topic by looking at the toys they play with now before exploring and comparing to the toys their parents and grandparents may have played with. The children will then go on to explore what decades are and what toys may have been like in the Victorian era. The children are particularly looking forward to making their own toy museum at the end of the half term and to share what they have found out, with their parents and carers.

In Birch Tree Class the children have been zooming across the continents in Geography in their topic of ‘Poles Apart’. The children will be looking at the continent of Antarctica and how this is different from the continent of Africa. The children have been sent a letter from David Attenborough asking them to decide whether they would prefer to live in a hot or cold continent. The children will also be exploring the theme of hot and cold colours in their artwork this term creating their own colour wheels and colour palettes to make their own hot and cold paintings.

In Chestnut Tree Class the children will also be delving deep into the past in their topic of ‘Queen Victoria and the Industrial Revolution’. The children are going to be exploring the timeline of Queen Victoria’s life before learning more about the development of the British Empire and then the Industrial Revolution. The children are also excited to learn more about some of the famous inventions during this time period including the work of Isambard Brunel.

Although this may be a short half term, we will also be hoping to take part in many other special events and days including;

Athletics Trials

Children’s Mental Health and Wellbeing Week

Reading mornings with our parents/ carers and National Story Telling Week.

I look forward to sharing more about the school and the children’s learning with you in the next issue.

Miss Docherty

THANK YOU TO:

the Cooper family for a kind donation to newsletter funds in memory of Joyce and Den.

BEST WISHES TO:

Mrs Pat Rowe of Morville as she spends some time at Innage Grange

Morville W I

It was wonderful to see so many lovely ladies at our January meeting including several visitors, who were welcomed with a glass or two of cider.

After our traditional opening with everyone joining in to sing "Jerusalem" our president started the meeting by reflecting on our Christmas party at The Astbury. The room had been decorated beautifully, the food was excellent and the committee led rendition of "The 12 days of Christmas" was hilarious. Of course we had secret santa and a raffle too, all in all it was a wonderful night.

After business of the night was completed it was time to introduce our speaker, Pamela Thom-Rowe, whose talk had the intriguing title "Of cider, ghosts and a ring of bells, folklore from Morville to Much Wenlock". It was interesting to learn more about the history of the area including the priory that once stood somewhere in Morville and that The Acton Arms is said to be one of the most frequently haunted pubs in England!

We were then treated to an amazing supper of soup and bread and then delicious cake & a cuppa , everything had been homemade by our lovely Rachel.

Morville WI have a few traditions that we have preserved, singing Jerusalem and high tea being two of them, but we are also always keen to embrace new ideas and welcome new members.

We meet on the second Wednesday of each month at Morville Village Hall, from 7.15pm.

For more information please turn up on the night or if you would like any further information we can be contacted by e mail at

morvillewomensinstitute@gmail.com or check us out on Facebook.

Please come along and see what we are all about.

The DIY Carol Service at St. Peters Monkhopton

On December 19th, Church warden Terry Fellows welcomed a full church. The anthems In Dulce Jubilo and O Holy Night were sung by members of the Severn Singers. Ellie and Merrie Pugh sang Away in a Manger. The accompanist was Carol Wall. Lessons were read by Roger Wilson, Anne Reidy, TerryFellows, Doreen England, Edward Pugh, Bill Hammerton, Gillian Pugh and David Carr.

After the Service the Congregation was invited to Monkhopton House by Mr. and Mrs Ben Marsh for mulled wine, delicious refreshments and an opportunity to meet up with friends.

Brown Clee Medical Practice Community Group would like to wish all the patients a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2024. We would especially like to thank all those patients who came to the various Roadshows. Your participation and feedback has made an invaluable contribution to the initiative.

We're delighted to see there is clearly a great deal of support for the path the Group is taking; the feedback received at the Roadshows indicated almost 90% of attendees were "very happy" with it.

A similar number supported the features proposed for the new "incorporated" Community Benefit Society (CBS) needed to own the premises. The CBS model meets the criteria of being community owned; for community benefit and not-for-profit; while being able to issue community shares and, if so decided, to have charitable status. There was a great deal of interest in being able to invest in 'community shares' as well as to make donations or loans.

The indications people gave on the forms they completed at the end of the roadshow about the extent of financial support they would be willing to provide gives us real confidence that, together with grants obtainable to support community investment, we will be able to raise the sums of money necessary to purchase the premises and equip them for the future.

The Community Group will be soon at the stage where it requires funds so that it can meet the fees associated with the forming of a legal entity. In the first instance we have requested a small grant from each of the Parish Councils within the surgery catchment area. If this request does not raise the required amounts then we will look to organising some fund raising events in the spring.

The Community Group will be holding an event, provisionally 9th June 2024 at Pam's Pools in Underton. Pam Yuille has kindly offered the venue for the event and we thank her for her generosity.

In addition it is hoped that there will be an "open garden" event kindly hosted by Bob Browning in July 2024.

A small group of patients from Ditton Priors have suggested an event to raise awareness of the initiative by organising a "Climb Everest" walk to the top of Brown Clee. The idea being that if the required number of people participate it would be the equivalent of climbing Everest. The Group wholly supports this and we look forward to this event in the autumn of 2024.

The next milestone of registering the incorporated legal entity, CBS, should conclude during the first quarter of this year and this will be announced once completed.

Many thanks for your continued interest and support.

Any queries of suggestions to Pam Yuille 07793939291 pamela.yuille@dovctors.org.uk

Archdeacon's Letter

Ash Wednesday this year will fall on the 14th February which of course is also St Valentine's day! Ash Wednesday is traditionally the beginning of Lent and this has been marked over the years as a period of self-discipline, fasting and spiritual journeying. It is a period of penitence and self-examination and seeing ourselves from God's perspective. Even if we don't have a strong faith we have learnt through the work of Educational Neuroscientists that intentional self-reflection helps us to learn and enhances how we apply, transfer, retain and recall new ideas and information.

The bible recognises that as we go through life we will be tempted and tested and that our response to those times will help to shape the depth of our spiritual lives. I am often astounded by the way many Christians have been shaped by sermons and theology that promise good things but never talk about the cost of following Jesus. The writer and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer called this a theology of cheap grace.

"Cheap grace is the grace we bestow on ourselves. Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate."

Lent gives us an opportunity to realign our lives with God's values, it gives us a prolonged and focussed time to reflect and pray and to read the bible and deepen our faith. The 40-day period is time enough to build in new habits and actions into our lives, which will have a lasting effect.

With ongoing war in Ukraine, the conflict between Israel & Hamas and so much uncertainty in our world I am finding that there is a great deal of anxiety in society about the future and a sense of aimlessness and general anger and tiredness. Lent gives us as Christians an opportunity to give these feelings back to God and to ask him to heal and restore us. It is also, as Paul reminds us, a time to recognise that our human experiences are common and that whilst heightened by the personal challenges or world events, are not unique to us but the difference is that our faith will endure.

"No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to all. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it." 1 Corinthians 10:13

As Christians, whilst we can use this time for reflection, we also know how the story ends and we have an enduring hope within us because Jesus has conquered death and brought forgiveness to us. We are forever Easter people who live in the light of the resurrection and we can mark Lent because of his sacrifice for us. The rhythm of the spiritual and liturgical year is a helpful tool to remind us that there is a cost and a purpose to our faith, which is not about self-benefit and self-fulfilment but about generosity, servant heartedness and a simple humbler faith. As Christians, we have a message of hope for a better future and Lent gives us the perfect opportunity to prepare our hearts and minds to share the good news.

The Venerable Derek Chedzey

Archdeacon of Hereford

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

MORVILLE

Sun	4 th	11.15am	Morning Prayer (Lay)
Sun	11 th	11.15am	Morning Prayer (JP) with refreshments
Sun	18 th	11.15am	Morning Prayer (Lay)
Sun	25 th	11.15am	Holy Communion (RL) with refreshments

ASTON EYRE

Sun	11 th	10.00am	Morning Prayer (JP)
Sun	25 th	10.00am	Holy Communion (RL)

MONKHOPTON

Sun	4 th	10.00am	Morning Prayer (Lay)
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ACTON ROUND

Sun	11 th	10.00am	Morning Prayer (Lay)
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Morville Readers and Readings for February

	First Reading	Second Reading
Sun	4 th Proverbs 8: 1, 22- 31 (Lucy Thompson)	John 1: 1-14 (Tim Morris)
Sun	11 th 2 Kings 2: 1-12 (Louise Shropshire)	Mark 9: 2-9 (Tim Heatley)
Sun	18 th Genesis 9:8-17 (Helen Smith)	Mark 1: 9-15 (Elaine Crisp)
Sun	25 th Genesis 17: 1-7,15-16 (Hilary Evans)	Mark 8: 31-end (Mike Skinner)

CLERGY In the vacancy (the period of time between vicars) all enquiries about church services should be addressed to the church office at St Leonard's Hall church on Racecourse Drive, or to the church wardens of each parish.

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BELL TOWER CAPTAIN MR IAN ROWE 01746 714357
BRIDGNORTH TEAM SECRETARY 01746 767174

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR & ADVERTS MRS C SKINNER Tel: 714285

COPY FOR THE NEWSLETTER MAY BE SENT TO THE EDITOR:

e-mail Carol Skinner at Newsletter@Morville.org.uk

BEFORE 25th OF THE MONTH

or by post to: PARK GRANGE, MORVILLE, BRIDGNORTH, WV16 4RN

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